

# Researchers Locate Description of Savior

Continued from Page 4

made, his arms proportionable and his hands are lovely. He is modest and not over-forward in his discourse. In short, you shall hardly imagine a more comely person."

Another description of the Savior recorded in this old "book" of skins is claimed to be contained in Nicephorus Ecclesiastical history. It is as follows:

"This we have received from the ancients to be the description of Christ. The shape of his body was comely, his height somewhat exceeded seven spans, his hair something inclining to a yellow color; not very thick and curling at the ends. His eyebrows black, parting in the middle, his eyes were lovely and not deformed in any way, nor unsteady or wandering. His beard yellow, but not long.

"The hair of his head a considerable length because it had never been shaved or cut. His neck bowed a little forward so that his look was still humble. The color of his face was somewhat brown, not round, but oval, resembling his mother's, a becoming red. His looks showed him to be a man of great wisdom, grave and of good nature and not subject to anger."

Included also in this old book of skins is an account purported to have been written by Josephus. This account is as follows:

"In this time there was Jesus a wise man, if it would be lawful to call him a man, a person that did miracles and the teacher of them that were willing to receive the truth, he had many of the Jews as well as the Gentiles which were his followers.

"This was he, who being accused by the Chief of our Nation, Pilate, condemned him to be crucified. Nevertheless, there was not wanting those who loved him and which had been with him from the beginning, and he appeared unto them alive, the third day, according to what the prophet had foretold concerning him and likewise many other wonderful things were done by him and the chiefs who took the Penonimato from him remain even unto this day."

As indicated above, we cannot prove that these are authentic descriptions made by actual contemporaries of the Savior. Yet, a remarkable bit of unusual evidence of the authenticity of the Lentulus description has come into our hands — we believe providentially!

Some years ago, we were searching for a copy of "The Pseudepigraph of the Old Testament" by Dr. R. H. Charles. This book, a very large one, originally printed by the Oxford University Press in 1913, was out of print. We needed a copy of this book for our personal library and looked for it in new and secondhand

bookstores throughout the world. As we were engaged in this search, we made it a point to examine every large, old book that we found on bookstore shelves.

On one occasion, in a second-hand bookstore in Washington, D.C., we observed such a book and, upon examining it, to our great surprise, we found that it was a "Classical Dictionary" containing an account of ancient Greek and Roman personalities by Charles Anthon, LL.D., Jay-Professor of the Greek and Latin languages in Columbia College, New York. The book was first entered in the Congressional Library in 1841 and published by Harper Brothers, New York.

This old book was in poor condition. The cover was nearly gone and its pages gave evidence of great age. Apparently, it is the book Professor Anthon was working on when he was visited by Martin Harris some thirteen years earlier. It will be recalled that Martin Harris brought to Professor Anthon copies of the Egyptian characters and their translation as made by the Prophet Joseph Smith from the plates from which the Book of Mormon was translated.

The professor wrote a favorable statement about the accuracy of this translation, then, after he learned that the Prophet had obtained the gold plates from an angel, he promptly destroyed his statement.

Nevertheless, searching through Anthon's book, we found a record of the Lentulus family. This record is contained on page 731 of Anthon's rare book and gives an account of the Lentulus family from 427 B.C. to 26 A.D. The account records that Gaetulicus Lentulus, a descendant of the family, was Consul at Jerusalem A.D. 26. He was a distinguished author of historical and political writings and apparently because of something he wrote or did, was charged with conspiracy and executed by Caligula.

It will be remembered by students of Roman history that Caligula was one of the most violent and cruel rulers of Rome, who put to death thousands of people who opposed him, including this Gaetulicus Lentulus.

Of course, this additional evidence of the fact that Lentulus was Consul at Jerusalem during the lifetime of the Savior is not absolute proof that he wrote this description. However, the fact that he was there, the fact that he did something that offended Rome, the fact that his description of the Savior has been preserved over these many hundreds of years, combine to provide strong evidence of the authenticity of this little and most interesting account of the appearance and some of the personal characteristics of the Savior.